

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

10/506,538

Examiner

OSCAR A. LOUIE

Applicant(s)

BECKER ET AL.

Art Unit

2436

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 04/07/2010.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 09/22/2010.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

/Oscar A. Louie/
Examiner, Art Unit 2436

DETAILED ACTION

This Examiner's Amendment and Examiner's Reasons for Allowance action is in response to the filing of 04/07/2010.

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jeff Haeberlin on 09/22/2010.

- The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method of entering, disabling/erasing scrambled data access rights transmitted from a transmission center to at least one descrambling terminal to which is linked an access control module device equipped with a security processor, these access rights being entered in said access control module, said scrambled data being subjected to an access control by periodic transmission of access control messages, conveying access criteria and a cryptogram of a control word that is changed periodically and encrypted using an operation key, then, in each security processor, conditionally upon verifying a validity of at least one

entered access right against said access criteria, by decrypting the cryptogram of the control word using said operation key, transmitting said control word to the descrambling terminal and descrambling said scrambled data using said restored control word, characterized in that it consists at least in:

forming any access right entered in said access control module device as a set of independent variables comprising at least:

an access right identification variable corresponding to at least an identifier of the entered right and used to reference this right in the access criteria conveyed by the access control messages,

an entered access right action date variable indicating the date of entry of the right entered in the access control module when no operation has been performed on said right or the date of execution of the last subsequent operation performed on said right, and

a status variable which can have one of three encoded values signifying access right enabled, access right disabled, or access right erased;

forming said any access right with linked variables linked to said independent variables;

transmitting from said transmission center to each descrambling terminal and to the access control module device linked to said descrambling terminal at least one access right management message, said message comprising at least, in addition to an entered access right identification variable, an action date variable and a status assignment variable, the encoded value corresponding to an enabled access right, a disabled access

right or an erased access right; and on receipt of said access right management message, at said access control module,

checking and authorization of an update operation by comparing a value of the entered access right action date variable of the access right entered in the access control module device to the action date variable of the access right management message and the value of the status variable of the access right;

assigning said action date to the entered access right corresponding to the access right identification variable of said access right management message, and

allocating said status assignment variable corresponding to an enabled access right, a disabled access right or an erased access right to said status variable of said corresponding entered access right.

- ***Claims 2-13 remain the same***

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) An access control module device controlling access to scrambled data transmitted from a transmission center to at least one descrambling terminal to which is linked said access control module device, characterized in that it comprises, entered in the memory of this access control module, at least one access right formed by a set of independent variables comprising at least:

an entered access right identification variable corresponding to at least an identifier of the entered right and used to reference this right in the access criteria conveyed by the access control messages,

an entered access right action date variable indicating the date of entry of the right entered in the access control module when no operation has been performed on said right or the date of execution of the last subsequent operation performed on said right, and

a status variable which can have one of three encoded values signifying access right enabled, access right disabled, or access right erased;

wherein the access right is also formed by linked variables linked to said independent variables; and

wherein checking and authorization of an update operation are done by comparing a value of the entered access right action date variable of the access right entered in the memory of the access control module device to an action date variable of an access right management message and the value of the status variable of the access right.

- *Claim 15 remains the same*

Allowance

2. Claim 16 has been cancelled.
3. Claims 1-15 have been amended with written arguments which overcome the examiner's prior rejections and objections, see paper of 12/07/2010. Examiner withdraws all outstanding rejections and objections to Claims 1-15.
4. Claims 1-15 are allowed.

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

5. Prior art was found which disclosed a method and apparatus for securing control words [e.g. Candelore (US-6697489-B1)].
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
 - The prior art of record does not teach or render obvious the limitations as recited in independent Claims 1 & 14, specific to "an access right identification variable corresponding to at least an identifier of the entered right and used to reference this right in the access criteria conveyed by the access control messages" and "an entered access right action date variable indicating the date of entry of the right entered in the access control module when no operation has been performed on said right or the date of execution of the last subsequent operation performed on said right" and "checking and authorization of an update operation by comparing a value of the entered access right action date variable of the access right entered in the access control module device to the action date variable of the access right management message and the value of the status variable of the access right".
 - Dependent claims are allowed as they depend from an allowable independent claim.
 - Therefore, the Examiner considers both the above limitations in combination with the remaining limitations found in each respective independent claim, as applied to entering, disabling, or erasing scrambled data access rights with the presence of an access control module, as the non-obvious novelties of the invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Oscar Louie whose telephone number is 571-270-1684. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. The examiner can also be contacted via E-mail to schedule a telephone discussion at OSCAR.LOUIE@USPTO.GOV.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone or E-mail are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nasser Moazzami, can be reached at 571-272-4195. The fax phone number for Formal or Official faxes to Technology Center 2400 is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is only available through Private PAIR. If you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 571-272-4100 (local). For more information on the PAIR system or the EBC please visit

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<http://www.uspto.gov/patents/ebc/index.jsp>. If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000 (local).

/OSCAR A LOUIE/
09/28/2010

/Nasser Moazzami/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2436